

Voters Told It's Almost Bonds... 'Or Else'

Torrance

Press-Herald

Published semi-weekly Wednesday and Sunday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, under act of March 3, 1879.

TO CALL US
Circulation Office DA 5-1515
Advertising DA 5-6060
Women's News DA 5-6380
News Department DA 5-6060

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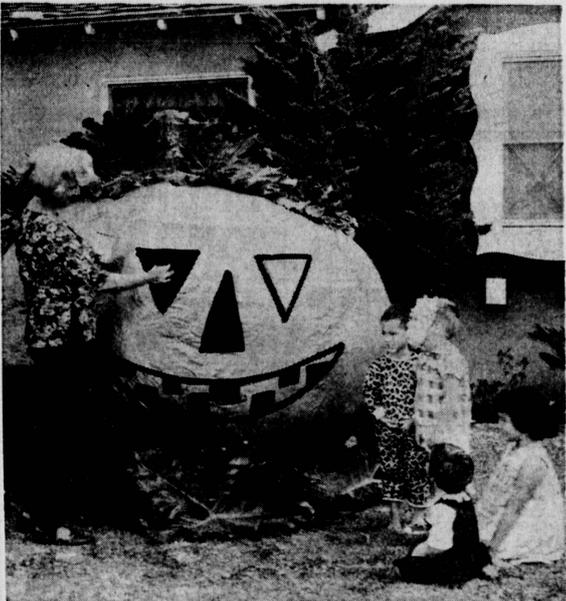
Series II, Volume III, No. 35



3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California - Sunday, October 30, 1966

10c Per Copy By Carrier 50c Per Month By Mail \$12 Per Year

16 PAGES



GREAT PUMPKIN . . . Mrs. Alva Wilson, wife of Dr. Donald E. Wilson of the Torrance Board of Education, paints a face on her version of the Great Pumpkin while an audience of neighborhood children watches. Mrs. Wilson built the pumpkin, which is 6 feet high and 9 feet in diameter, from papier mache and wire "just for fun." It will sit on the front lawn of her home at 17022 Kornblum Ave. tomorrow as trick or treaters call at her front door. The youngsters are Michael Chang, Greg Blain (with the mask), Dawn Chang, and Tina Blain. (Press-Herald Photo by Mike Eggers)

Seven Suspects Jailed In Crackdown on Dope

Investigation Of Four Weeks Led to Arrests

Seven persons were booked Thursday on narcotics charges as Torrance vice officers completed investigations into the sale and use of narcotics. Some 7,500 tablets, believed to be Benzadrine, were seized. Three of the persons were charged with being under the influence of a narcotic and the remaining four were arrested for possession of dangerous drugs with intent to sell.

Officers James Farrar and Robert Armstrong made the first arrests about 5 p.m. Thursday after an anonymous caller told them three men were using heroin at 2205 Del Amo Blvd.

FARRAR and Armstrong went to the home and after a brief investigation arrested Richard Manuel Esqueda, 21, no address given; Joseph Bustamente Esqueda, 25, of 2205 Del Amo Blvd., and Jesus Pedro Chavez, 26, of 2136 Del Amo Blvd.

The two officers said all three men had "fresh puncture wounds" on their arms. Chavez, they reported, was found hiding in a closet during a search of the house.

Three more persons were taken into custody on a tip from an informant and a fourth man was arrested after an undercover agent for the police department reportedly purchased 10 tablets from him.

ARRESTED and charged with possession of dangerous drugs with intent to sell were: Jack Mawhinney, 25, of 1546 W. Torrance Blvd.; Constance Tamara Jarvis, 34, of 4567 W. 166th St.; Joyce Aileen Hoffman, 25, of 1905 Rockefeller Lane, Redondo Beach, and Dale Leon White, 39, of 1806 Cabrillo Ave.

The four arrests ended a four-week investigation into the sale of narcotics in the Torrance area, officers said.

MAWHINNEY and the two women were arrested in a parking lot near Western Avenue and Carson Street after the two officers had tailed and observed the trio for several hours.

White was arrested in a bar at 1508 Cabrillo Ave. after he reportedly sold 10 white tablets, believed to be Benzadrine, to an undercover agent.

Farrar and Armstrong said the 7,500 tablets seized when Mawhinney and the two women were arrested have a market value of about \$750.



KING-SIZED CHORE . . . Sixteen-year-old Debbie McCullough, a South High junior, gets a jump on the crowd and turns back a king-sized wristwatch for jeweler Ronnie Phillips in his Downtown Torrance store. Debbie used the watch to remind us all that we get back that "lost" hour this weekend with the end of Daylight Savings Time. All clocks should be put back one hour at 2 a.m. today. (Press-Herald Photo)

Five Hurt In Traffic Collisions

Five persons were injured—none seriously—in three minor traffic accidents here Friday and Saturday.

Police said Daniel Thomas Vladimir, 18, of 24233 Madison Ave., and his passenger, Charles S. Zubak, 17, of 5261 Bindewald Road, sustained minor injuries when Vladimir swerved his car to avoid an oncoming vehicle and struck a parked car.

The accident occurred in the 4300 block of Newton Street about 12:20 a.m. Saturday, police reported. Both youths said they would see a private physician.

Two other persons were injured in a rear-end collision on Hawthorne Boulevard at Emerald Street about 6 p.m. Friday. Police said a car driven by Wendy Joan Yandell, 29, of 1607 Van Horne Lane, Redondo Beach, was struck from the rear when she stopped suddenly for traffic in front of her.

The driver of the second car was identified as John C. Patrick, 52, of 1723 Juniper St. Both drivers refused medical aid at the scene.

A Hermosa Beach woman sustained minor injuries about 4:40 p.m. Friday when her car collided with a car driven by Gena Mathews, 41, of 21312 Evalyn Ave.

Tena Rubena Nikkel, 59, said she would see her own physician. Her car collided with Mrs. Mathews vehicle after Mrs. Mathews had apparently turned left onto Anza Avenue at Torrance Boulevard and stopped in the intersection for a pedestrian.

BONDS OR TAXES

Voters Have Two Choices, He Says

When Torrance voters go to the polls Tuesday, Nov. 8, they will have two choices of financing school construction available to them, according to Robert Richardson, chairman of the Torrance Citizens' School Committee.

"They can either decide to build classrooms with bond money and keep the present tax rate by voting 'yes' on Proposition V or they can deny school bonds and force the board of education to hike the tax rate," he said.

Taxes could go up almost 70 cents on every \$100 of assessed valuation if Proposition V fails, Richardson stated.

"FAILURE to approve the bonding method of financing school construction, which can be compared to financing a home by means of a mortgage," he said, "would leave the board of education only one alternative—cash on the barrel head."

At the present time the board has not levied the maximum tax rate authorized for operating expenses, he pointed out. The levy of 69.6 cents on every \$100 of assessed valuation could be tapped for school construction if it became necessary to build schools on a pay-as-you-go basis, he pointed out.

"Building schools with bond money is less costly on the taxpayer's pocketbook," Richardson stated, "because bonds are paid off a little at a time over a 20-year period."

"If Torrance is forced to pay for each school building at the time it is constructed, it will be comparable to a homeowner buying a house for cash out of present income," he stated. "The board of education has only one available avenue of increasing the income—raising taxes to the legal maximum."

At the present time, Richardson said, nearly 900 Torrance youngsters are on double session. Each year space must be provided for an additional 1,000 students in our schools. Thirty classrooms are needed immediately to alleviate this problem, he pointed out.

"Our school board has spent money wisely as indicated by the lowest cost per pupil of any sizeable unified school district in Los Angeles County," he said. "When the board of education offers the public a bond issue, they are (See VOTERS on A-7)

ZONE CHANGE DENIED

North Torrance Area Master Plan to Stick

Plans for a proposed professional building at 178th Street and Hawthorne Boulevard were turned down last Tuesday after residents of the area protested such a building would destroy a master plan for development of the area.

Residents of the area, however, asked that any new study of the area, which involves a section along Hawthorne Boulevard between 176th and 180th streets, be postponed for at least two years.

Randal Watwood, following a brief meeting with other residents of the area, told the council his group would "prefer to stay with the plan as it is." Watwood said his group would be willing to meet with city officials to restudy the area if prospects for development do not improve within the next two years.

FOLLOWING a major study of the area in 1964, a master plan providing for commercial development was approved which requires such developments to include 30 feet of property from the curb line on Hawthorne Boulevard.

A new street pattern, called "See COUNCIL on A-7)

Masked Man Takes \$150 In Robbery

A masked gunman held up a North Torrance service station early Friday morning and escaped with nearly \$150.

Station attendant Keith N. Brown told police he was reading in the station office about 5:30 a.m. when he saw a man dressed in blue overalls and wearing a stocking mask approach the office. Brown said he ran to the door to lock it, but was met at the door by the man.

The man then pulled an automatic pistol and told Brown to "empty your pockets on the desk."

"There has got to be more than this," the gunman told Brown. He then forced the attendant to open the cash register and an adding machine tape box. Brown said he was instructed to put the money in a bag.

Police said the gunman then walked Brown to the rear of the station, located at 16300 Crenshaw Blvd., and pushed him to the ground. The man ran south toward 164th Street, Brown told officers.

Chamber in Fight Against 'Z'

The Torrance Chamber of Commerce has joined the Torrance League of Women Voters in urging the defeat of a ballot measure which would give a majority of the City Council the right to select the mayor.

The measure, which will appear on the Nov. 8 ballot as Charter Amendment Z, would give the council the power to select one of its members to act as mayor. Under provisions of the proposal, the mayor would serve at the pleasure of the council.

Both organizations base their opposition on grounds that the measures were ill-prepared and hastily presented to the city council just two days prior to the deadline for submitting such amendments. The unusual ac-

tion did not allow time for a proper background study and discussion by the council or for public hearings, a spokesman for the League said.

Don H. Hyde, president of the chamber's board of directors, said a stable governmental atmosphere is necessary for continued growth and development of the city. "Good government attracts and maintains commercial and industrial enterprises which in turn benefit all Torrance citizens," he said.

Hyde said it is "incumbent on the business community to keep a watchful eye on city expenditures." He labeled the placing of Amendment Z on the ballot — at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$7,000 — "an unnecessary expense."

"The money could perhaps have been better used for a

calm appraisal of the entire charter," Hyde said.

Mrs. William Radcliffe, president of the Torrance League of Women Voters, noted that Amendment Z is the sixth charter amendment proposed by the council since April, 1965. The League, she said, has been urging a complete study of the city charter for the past 18 months.

The League has opposed—and will continue to oppose—piecemeal charter revisions and will actively work for the appointment of a competent citizens committee to review the entire charter, Mrs. Radcliffe said.

"This calm and thoughtful approach to charter changes is the best way to assure that the orderly functions of our city government will continue," she said.

Mrs. Brown Here Monday

California's first lady, Mrs. Edmund G. Brown, will visit the area Monday and will get her first look at the new South Bay Botanical Gardens on the Peninsula. She will be at the Palos Verdes Peninsula Democratic Headquarters at 27777 Silver Spur at 10 a.m. and then will move with a small party to the Botanical Gardens on Rolling Hills Road at 11 a.m.

Turkish Group Due Here

A six-man government study team from Turkey is due to arrive in Torrance this afternoon for a week-long visit. The group, led by Fethi Tansuk, undersecretary of the Turkish Ministry of the Interior, is scheduled to arrive at the American Airlines terminal at Los Angeles International Airport at 3:10 p.m. Mayor Albert Isen is expected to lead a delegation of city officials which will meet the group. A Hilmi Nalcaei, mayor of Konya, one of Torrance's sister cities, is a member of the Turkish delegation.

Council Meeting Slated

Plans to improve Sepulveda Boulevard between Cabrillo Street and Western Avenue will be presented to the City Council Tuesday. Walter M. Nollac, director of public works, said the project is needed now because of increasing traffic on Sepulveda Boulevard. A section east of Western Avenue will be improved shortly by the city of Los Angeles, Nollac said. Councilmen will meet at 5:30 p.m.